



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 6:45 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - January 28, 2002

- ***In the West***, cool, showery weather prevails across ***California and the Great Basin***, while colder, drier air is overspreading the ***Northwest***, where winter wheat remains dormant.
- ***On the Plains***, a southward push of bitterly cold air is resulting in an extreme temperature contrast across the region, maintaining stressful conditions for livestock and winter wheat. This morning's low temperatures were as low as -20 degrees F in ***northern Montana***, where snow depths are generally 2 inches or less, but today's highs are forecast to approach 80 degrees F in ***west-central Texas***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, a sharp cold front is introducing bitterly cold weather and increasing livestock stress across ***northwestern areas***, while record warmth prevails in the ***Ohio Valley***.
- ***In the South***, beneficial, drought-easing showers linger in the ***southern Atlantic States***. Meanwhile in the ***Delta***, warm, dry weather is allowing water to drain from lowlands and flooded winter wheat fields, following last week's downpours.

Outlook: A strong cold front is forecast to edge southward across the ***Plains, Midwest, and Northeast*** during the next several days, bringing a sharp temperature decline. Temperatures are forecast to fall well below 0 degrees F across the ***northern Plains and upper Midwest***, threatening unprotected winter wheat and increasing livestock stress. By mid-week, wintry precipitation (snow, freezing rain, or rain) is forecast to develop on the ***southern Plains*** and spread into the ***Midwest and Northeast***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 2-6 calls for cool weather to linger from the ***Rockies westward***, but above-normal temperatures from the ***Plains to the East Coast***. A wet weather pattern is expected nearly nationwide, which may result in soil-moisture improvements on the ***Plains*** and additional drought relief in the ***East and Northwest***.

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